REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,679 issued to Bournas (hereafter, "Bournas"). Anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single reference of prior art. *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

As to claim 1, Bournas does not teach or suggest the step of periodically traversing selected constant-sized subgraphs, as amended. The Examiner "asserts that searching the data structure [...] to locate where to place the new key mask constitutes detecting structural changes to the subgraphs." Bournas provides an efficient way to form a data structure, and to efficiently index (search) for items within it. This is analogous to arranging a set of numbers into a binary tree (which allows for usually-quick search); even more apt is the analogy with a radix tree, which provides for a special way to form the tree, and a special way to "key" the items within.

In this sense, to detect structural changes, one must periodically perform a lookup --- to see if the desired item is there or not. A lookup involves, in the worst case, a search in the data structure for the desired key (e.g. a logarithmic-time search on average for a binary tree). Claim 1 defines how to do this in constant time; i.e., claim 1 does not perform a full lookup to detect changes. The method of claim 1 requires a scan of only the constant-sized

subgraph of the full graph that is necessary to detect the change of interest.
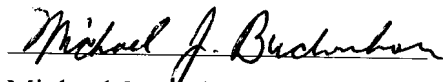
Even more distinguishing is that Bournas requires that "each addressable element [... include] its own unique address." Therefore, Bournas cannot detect changes of patterns; e.g., he cannot discover when more pairs of (A points to B) in a graph show up. This is the kind of "structural changes to subgraphs" that our claims can cover; e.g., at time 1, there are five B's pointed to by an A, while at time 2 there are 10 B's pointed to by an A.

Claims 3-11 are dependent on claim 1 and are not anticipated for the foregoing reasons.

Claims 12 and 13 are, respectively, program product manufacture and machine counterparts of claim 1 and hence the patent claims and their dependent claims are also not anticipated for the above reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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